

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 DRC-01

/142 W

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R 271345Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4531

INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ROME 5827

FODAG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, FAO, UN

SUBJ: WFP ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATED AREAS IN AFRICA AND AFRICAN
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

1. /SUMMARY./ AT REQUEST SENEGAL, IGC DECIDED CONSIDER WFP ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLES IN LIBERATED AREAS AFRICA AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THIS WAS NOT INCLUDED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND MEMBERS CAUGHT WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. DESPITE VIEWS FAO AND WFP, AND DELEGATIONS U.S. AND DENMARK, THAT REGULATIONS PRECLUDE SUCH ASSISTANCE, IGC TOOM POSITION EMERGENCY AND QUASI-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY. SIMULTANEOUSLY, STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO CHANGE RULES TO ENABLE WFP EXTEND ASSISTANCE ON REGULAR BASIS. OAU AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA, WHO MADE INITIAL REQUEST WAS SUPPORTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY NUMBER COUNTRIES, PRINCIPALLY SENEGAL, PAKISTAN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA AND ARGENTINA. THESE MEMBERS BASED DEMANDS LARGELY ON CONTENTION UNGA AND FAO RESOLUTIONS OVERRIDE REGULATIONS SPECIAL AGENCIES AND OTHER PROGRAMS. OAU AMBASSADOR TOLD IGC HIS ORGANIZATIONS COORDINATING OFFICE DAR-ES-SALAAM WOULD UNDERTAKE RESPONSIBILITIES NORMALLY REQUIRED OF COUNTRIES RECEIVING WFP ASSISTANCE.

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/END SUMMARY./

2. ALTHOUGH ISSUE NOT INCLUDED PLANNED AGENDA OF SESSION, DELEGATE OF SENEGAL PROPOSED OPENING DAY THAT ITEM 6 (MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE PROGRAM) INCLUDE CONSIDERATION EXTENDING WFP ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN PEOPLES IN COLONIAL TERRITORIES AND THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE ASKED THAT OAU OBSERVER BE ALLOWED ADDRESS PLENARY AND REQUESTED CIRCULATION OF SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT OUTLINING THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MATTER.

3. THE IGC AGREED AND DEBATE TOOK PLACE APRIL 23 AND 24. INTENSIVE CONSULTATION AMONG MEMBERS, SECRETARIAT AND THE OAU OCCURRED IN INTERIM. THOSE ELEMENTS WILLING TO TAKE A STAND ON ADHERENCE ESTABLISHED REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES HAD NO SUCCESS WITH THE REMAINING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR THE OAU AMBASSADOR WHO LATER ADDRESSED THE PLENARY IN OBSERVER CAPACITY.

4. AT REQUEST U.S., AQUINO HAD SECRETARIAT MEMBER (ANNAN) INTRODUCE ITEM IN FASHION HIGHLIGHTING (A) ASSISTANCE WHICH WFP HAS EXTENDED, IN ACCORDANCE REGULATIONS, TO REFUGEES FROM LIBERATED AREAS AT SPECIFIC REQUEST COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS FAO OR UN, AND (2) RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH WFP FELT PRECLUDED FOOD AID ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO THE OAU, AS THAT ORGANIZATION EARLIER REQUESTED. THESE COMMENTS, AND SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED VIEWS LEGAL ADVISORS FAO AND UN TO THE EFFECT "...IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ECOSOC AND THE FAO COUNCIL TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS SUITABLY IF WFP WERE TO GRANT FOOD AID TO PEOPLES IN LIBERATED AREAS, THROUGH THE OAU AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS." EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE THEN SUGGESTED MATTER BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT IGC.

5. OAU AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA, BASSIOUNY (EGYPT) THEN SPOKE AT LENGTH, CITING UNGA RESOLUTIONS 2704(XXV) AND 3118(XXVIII) AND FAO RESOLUTION 13/73. EXPRESSED VIEW THESE AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS OVERRODE REGULATIONS. CLAIMED DECISIONS THESE RESOLUTIONS MADE COMPLIANCE WITH HIS REQUEST NOT ONLY POSSIBLE BUT NECESSARY. HE SAID HE WAS SPEAKING FOR 42 AFRICAN MEMBERS OF FAO AND PROMISED THAT OAU COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LIBERATION OF AFRICA, IN DAR-ES-SALAA., WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECEIVING, STORING, HANDLING AND DISTRIBUTING FOOD AID PROVIDED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT

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FOOD, NOT ARMS WAS BEING REQUESTED. ARMS ALREADY WERE AVAILABLE. COMMENTS REGARDING ALLEGED MASSACRES, DESTRUCTION OF CROPS AND SUFFERING WERE INTERSPERSED IN REMARKS.

6. SENEGAL (AMBASSADOR DIOURY) URGED IMMEDIATE PREPARATION OF PROJECTS. WITH NO ONE ELSE REQUESTING THE FLOOR, US SPOKE TO SUPPORT LEGAL VIEW AND ASK MEMBERS NOT TAKE ACTION ENDANGERING THE STANDING OF THE PROGRAM AND THE MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE ALREADY

FLOWING INTO AFRICA. SAID THE MATTER WAS POLITICAL AND THE FORUM WAS INAPPROPRIATE. THE UN AND FAO SHOULD SPECIFICALLY DIRECT THE WFP AND AMEND REGULATIONS ACCORDINGLY IF CHANGE WAS DESIRED.

7. PAKISTAN (AMBASSADOR KAHN) INTERVENED TO CALL ISSUE HUMANITARIAN, NOT POLITICAL. IF IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS WAS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF REGULATIONS, WHY HAD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOT ALERTED MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY AT LAST FAO CONFERENCE? TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (AUGUSTE, DEPUTY PERMREP GENEVA) ECHOED THESE VIEWS. SUDAN THEN SUPPORTED SENEGAL. INDIA (PERMREP PRASAD) ATTEMPTED CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL SAYING WFP ALREADY ASSISTING WHEREVER POSSIBLE. SUGGESTED ACTION BE UNDERTAKEN TO REMOVE OBSTACLES AND MAKE ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE.

8. WHEN DEBATE RE-OPENED APRIL 24, HUNGARY, TUNISIA AND TOGO SUPPORTED SENEGAL. NORWAY (SPEAKING ALSO FOR FINLAND AND SWEDEN WHICH NOT ON IGC) URGED AMENDMENT REGULATIONS AND PREPARATIONS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ONCE RULES CHANGE. INDONESIA MADE A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR SUGGESTION LATER SUPPORTED BY THE NETHERLANDS AND IRELAND.

9. DENMARK WAS ALONE IN FULLY SUPPORTING U.S. SUGGESTED LEGAL PRINCIPLES BE RETAINED AND FELT MATTER COULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT SESSION. LIKE OTHER DELS HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND FELT MATTER WAS OF UNUSUAL IMPORTANCE. TURKEY, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND ARGENTINA SUPPORTED SENEGAL. CANADA THEN MADE CURIOUS PROPOSAL OF "BEING REGULATIONS" TO FIND A MEANS OF PROVIDING "EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE IN LIBERATED AREAS." SUGGESTED A GROUP BE SELECTED TO DEVISE FORMULA PERMITTING ACTION. THIS NOT IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED, BUT LATER WAS A PART OF GENERAL CONSENSUS. MANY LDC'S THEN PRESSED FOR A VOTE ON SENEGALESE PROPOSAL. OTHERS RESISTED HAVING A VOTE IN IGC.

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10. THE UK SPLKE AT THIS LATE POINT. IF FAVORED INDONESIA PROPOSAL, I.E., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO WORK ON PREPARATION PROJECTS WHILE ACTIONS TO AMEND REGULATIONS UNDERWAY.

11. WHEN IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO AGREE ON A WORKING PARTY TO DRAFT WORDING WHICH MIGHT GAIN GENERAL ACCEPTANCE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THIS TASK. HIS DRAFT WAS PRESENTED AFTER MUCH CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS BUT NEVERTHELESS MODIFIED SOMEWHAT IN PLENARY BEFORE BEING ACCEPTED. IT DOES REFLECT THE DISCUSSION, BUT AS A DECISION FOR IMPLEMENTATION POSES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR THE SECRETARIAT AND MEMBERS. EFFORTS TO SUBSTITUTE WORDS LIKE "AS SOON AS FEASIBLE" FOR THE WORD "IMMEDIATE" PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL. SEEMS CERTAIN PRESSURE WILL BE ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE FAO DG TO GRANT

EMERGENCY AID ASAP.

12. AS DECIDED, WFP SHOULD IMMEDIATELY WORK WITH OAU ON (A) INTERIM EMERGENCY AND QUASI-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, (B) THE FORMULATION OF REGULAR-TYPE PROJECTS, AND (C) SHOULD CONSULT WITH THE UN AND FAO IN RESPECT TO ANY CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED. AS AN ADDITIONAL POINT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS TO REPORT TO THE 26TH IGC (OCT. 1974) ON ADEQUATE PROCEDURES TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE ABOVE DECISIONS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION "THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS TO BE MET" IN AREA CONCERNED. IN COURSE DISCUSSION AQUINO MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS CALL ATTENTION TO DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTING ANY PROJECT PROPOSAL.

13. HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION CONSIDERED ADVISABLE. SUGGEST ALSO THAT, IN VIEW DECISIONS TAKEN THIS SESSION IGC, WE BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO WORK ON SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSING TWO ISSUES TO BE FACED BY THE 26TH IGC; NAMELY, (A) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AQUINO'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL SET ASIDE FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, AND (B) THE APPROVAL OF THE QUASI-EMERGENCY PROCEDURE ON A PERMANENT BASIS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, MEETING AGENDA, FOOD ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME05827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740101-0103
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974048/aaaaagsh.tel
Line Count: 191
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WFP ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATED AREAS IN AFRICA AND AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
TAGS: EAID, XA, FAO, UN, WFP, OAU, IGC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005